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April 13, 2012

## **VIA ELECTRONIC FILING**

Jocelyn G. Boyd, Esquire Chief Clerk & Administrator Public Service Commission of South Carolina 101 Executive Center Drive Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Re:

Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC for Approval of Experimental Tariff Covering a New Residential Retrofit Pilot Program - Letter Curtailing the Residential Retrofit Pilot

Program

Docket No. 2010-51-E

Dear Ms. Boyd:

The Office of Regulatory Staff ("ORS") has reviewed the filing in the above-referenced docket and has no objection to the Application of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC ("Company") for approval to end the Residential Retrofit Pilot Program ("Program") and terminate the corresponding tariff.

The Program was approved in Order No. 2010-158 dated February 24, 2010 and is available to up to 100 residential customers in owner-occupied single family residences served on one of the Company's residential rate schedules. Participating customers received a structural assessment of their home to identify areas of potential inefficiencies and were provided with recommendations for thermal improvements. These assessments were performed at a cost to the customer of up to three hundred dollars (\$300), with the amount refundable if recommended measures were installed by a Company authorized contractor. If a customer implemented the recommendations, the Company paid a percentage of the improvements, not to exceed eight hundred dollars (\$800), including reimbursement for the assessment.

The Program was launched in August 2010, targeting customers in the Gaffney, Spartanburg and Greenville areas. Only four (4) customers completed the assessment and installed the recommended energy saving measures. The uncertainty involved in paying for an assessment without knowing what measures would be recommended and what reimbursement would be received appeared to be the primary barrier to adoption.

Based on this data, ORS has no objection to the Company's request. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in this matter.

Sincerely,

John W. Flitter

JWF/ahp

cc: Dan F. Arnett, Chief of Staff, SC ORS

Shannon Bowyer Hudson, Esquire, SC ORS

Courtney Edwards, Esquire, SC ORS

Charles A. Castle, Senior Counsel, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC

Timika Shafeek-Horton, Deputy General Counsel, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC